

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 08971 010942Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-03

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R 010436Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4993

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8971

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO, RP

SUBJECT: GOP VIEWS ON SEATO

REF: MANILA 7890

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR TURPIN TOLD CHARGE JUNE 30 THAT
DURING RECENT CALL ON SECRETARY ROMULO HE INQUIRED ABOUT
GOP VIEWS ON SEATO IN CONTEXT OF NEXT SEATO COUNCIL MEET-
ING. WITH TYPICAL DECLAMATORY FLAIR, ROMULO SAID THERE
WOULD NOT BE ANY COUNCIL MEETING, THAT THE ORGANIZATION
WAS PASSE WHEN TURPIN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS VIES,
NOTING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO WISHES
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PAGE 02 MANILA 08971 010942Z

OF OTHER SEATO MEMBERS, AND ASKING WHETHER ROMULO'S REMARKS

REFLECTED CONSIDERED GOP POSITION, ROMULO BACKED OFF HASTILY.
ROMULO ENDED UP SAYING PRESIDENT HAD GOP POSITION ON SEATO
UNDER SERIOUS REVIEW. TURPIN INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP CONVER-
SATION WITH WRITTEN REQUEST FOR FURTHER ELABORATION OF
GOP VIEWS ON SEATO.

2. COMMENT: GOP HAS IN RECENT TIMES CONSISTENTLY INDICATED
READINESS TO STEP AWAY FROM SEATO IF IT LOOKED AS THOUGH
CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP WOULD CONSTITUTE POLITICAL LIABILITY
TO ITS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST POWERS.
ONLY FEW WEEKS AGO WHILE IN PEKING, PRESIDENT MARCOS TOLD
REPORTERS THAT GOP WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW MEMBERSHIP IN SEATO.
ROMULO'S OFF-THE-TOP-OF-HIS-HEAD REMARKS, THEREFORE, ARE
IN KEEPING WITH GENERAL DRIFT IN GOP THINKING BUT WE DO
NOT BELIEVE IT HAS YET MADE ANY FIRM DECISION ABOUT SEATO,
OR THAT IT WOULD CHOOSE TO OPT OUT PRECIPITATELY,
AND CERTAINLY NOT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH ASEAN MEMBERS.

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06 JUL 2006

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